

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 287343

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 EB-07

COME-00 ACDA-07 MC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:RKMCKEE:YW

APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:RKMCKEE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, PK, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON A-7 SALES TO PAKISTAN

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR USE BY DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN NOV. 23:

Q. DID THE QUESTION OF SELLING A-7S TO PAKISTAN COME UP
WHEN THE INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY SAW KISSINGER YESTERDAY?

A. THIS WAS ONE OF THE ISSUES COVERED IN THE GENERAL
REVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN THE REGION BUT IT WOULD BE WRONG
TO CONCLUDE THAT THERE WAS SPECIAL FOCUS ON THIS ISSUE.
THE MEETING COVERED THE GENERAL RANGE OF BILATERAL AFFAIRS.
AS USUAL, WE ARE NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF
DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES.

Q. DID THE SECRETARY SAY THAT THE DECISION ON A-7 WAS ONE
FOR THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION?

A. AS I SAID PREVIOUSLY, WE ARE NOT GOING INTO THE DETAILS

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PAGE 02 STATE 287343

OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES.

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM THE PRESS REPORT THAT THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION WITH OUR CHARGE IN NEW DELHI?

A. THE SAME ANSWER APPLIES: WE DON'T DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF OUR DAY-TO-DAY DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES.

Q. WELL, WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE PROPOSED SALE?

A. THE REQUEST IS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND IS BEING CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WHOLE SECURITY SITUATION IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD.

WHILE THE PROCESS CONTINUES, WE ARE NOT GOING INTO ITS VARIOUS PARTS OR DETAILS OF THE REQUEST.

WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC TIME-FRAME FOR THE DECISION. I WOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, ANY DECISION TO GO AHEAD ON THE A-7S WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE NEXT CONGRESS.

Q. HAS THE FRENCH NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT SALE TO PAKISTAN BEEN SHELVED?

A. AS TO THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING ISSUE, DISCUSSIONS ON THAT SUBJECT ARE CONTINUING AS THE SECRETARY SAID THEY WOULD AFTER HIS TALKS WITH PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO IN LAHORE LAST AUGUST. WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO COMMENT FURTHER ON THIS MATTER.

2. SUBJECT MATTER DID NOT ARISE. ROBINSON

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